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Breaking the copy/paste cycle: the Stretchable Selection Tool

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Abstract
Copy-and-**paste**, or cut-and-**paste**, using a clipboard or **paste** buffer, has long been the principle facility provided to users for transferring data between and within GUI applications. We argue that this mechanism ca be clumsy in circumstances where several pieces information must be moved systematically-for example, extracting a predetermined set of data fields from a piece of unstructured text. In dealing with the plethora of potentially useful, but not appropriately structured, information on the World Wide Web, interfaces which facilitate manual information gathering are of considerable importance. We present an alternative, more natur user interface facility to make the task less onerous, and to provide improved visual feedback during the operation. We call our facility the "Stretchable Selection Tool", a semi-transparent overlay augmenting the mouse pointer to automate **paste** operations and provide information to prompt the user. We describe a prototype implementation that **functions** in a collaborative software environment, allowing users to cooperate on multiple copy/paste operations

Index Terms
Inspec
####### Controlled Indexing
graphical user interfaces   groupware   information resources   mouse controllers (computers)
utility programs

####### Non-controlled Indexing
GUI applications   Stretchable Selection Tool   World Wide Web   augmented mouse pointer
clipboard   collaborative software environment   **copy-and-paste**   cut-and-**paste**   data fields
data transfer   manual information gathering   multiple copy/paste operations   **paste** buffer
paste operations automation   prototype implementation   semi-transparent overlay
systematic information movement   unstructured text   user interface facility   user prompting
visual feedback

Author Keywords
Not Available

References

No references available on IEEE Xplore.

Citing Documents

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